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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
IRAQI AGGRESSION AND THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT IN FLAGRANT VIOLATION OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 23 January 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the statement made on 22 January 1991 by Mr. Esmat Abdel Meguid, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the joint meeting of the Inter-Arab Affairs, Defence and National Security and Foreign Relations Committees of the People's Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 153, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Amre M. MOUSSA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Statement made on 22 January 1991 by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt to the joint meeting of the Inter-Arab Affairs, Defence and National Security and Foreign Relations Committees of the People's Assembly

The present delicate circumstances and the successive developments taking place in the region require that I should address you once again today in order to supplement and expand on the statement I made to you on 13 January, at which time I recalled the causes and background of the crisis and the Egyptian position with regard to it.

Events have evolved and succeeded each other with enormous speed since last we met. It may therefore be useful for me to review with you our analysis of the situation and our view of its dimensions and of the developments that it underwent between the time of our aforementioned meeting and the early morning of 17 January 1991, the day on which the operation for the liberation of Kuwait began.

In the days leading up to the expiry of the deadline established by the United Nations Security Council in its resolution 678 (1990), Egypt engaged in intense activity with the aim of thereby sparing the region a devastating and murderous war that would destroy everything root and branch.

In another respect, Egypt participated in the efforts made by a number of leaders and personalities of substance at the inter-Arab and international levels in order to prevent the outbreak of war. Those efforts were indeed gigantic and sustained, and they were made in an attempt to persuade the Iraqi President to give peace efforts a chance to bear fruit and the spectre of war a chance to vanish.

Most regrettably, all of those efforts and attempts foundered on the rock of Iraqi rejection, a rejection which forced the international community to resort to the use of armed force for the implementation of numerous Security Council resolutions, beginning with resolution 660 (1990) and ending with resolution 678 (1990) of 29 November 1990.

In the context of the efforts made with a view to preventing escalation and of the endeavour to contain the situation, I should like to note the sustained and sincere effort made by President Hosni Mubarak to spare the Iraqi people and the peoples of the region the hazards of war and the consequences of destruction.

In this perspective, before the expiry of the deadline on the evening of 15 January, President Mubarak addressed to the Iraqi President one last appeal, the twenty-sixth in the series of appeals that he had made to him since 20 July 1990. A detailed statement concerning these appeals has been deposited with your Committees.

I must not fail to refer to the statement of the joint committee formed by the Inter-Arab Affairs, Defence and National Security and Foreign Relations Committees

issued on 13 January 1991, which referred to the negative consequences of the evolution of events in the Gulf crisis and which contained an appeal to the Iraqi President calling upon him to spare the people of Iraq and the Arab nation the horrors of a devastating war.

In these crucial moments, in which the fate of an entire people, namely the Iraqi people, is being decided, we find one individual gambling with the destiny of a whole people and controlling its fate in order to achieve ambitions for spurious power and ephemeral dominance.

In these critical times, when the fate of an entire nation is being determined, I can only reaffirm yet again that the Egyptian position, which is one that stems from commitment to the principles of truth and justice, urges the need for Iraq to comply with the resolutions of the Security Council, which are the result and the reflection of the will of the international community for the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwaiti territory in order to allow the liberation of Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate Kuwaiti authority, God willing, to the performance of its positive role in the inter-Arab and international arenas.

Our region, which has witnessed successive conflicts and the dissipation of capacities and efforts in marginal issues which are harmful and to no avail, is today, in light of its aspirations for a better future for its sons, more than ever in need of a peace that will allocate capacities to and focus efforts on development, that will build and not destroy and that will preserve and not squander, the very peace which is one of the glorious attributes of God.

In conclusion, I can only beseech the Lord Almighty to safeguard Egypt and the Arab nation and preserve them from all evil and all harm. He is the best guardian, and He is the most merciful of the merciful.